

## Breast Cancer Research and Evaluation Activities

### Mammography Rescreening Rates and Risk Factor Assessments

Improving rescreening rates is difficult because demographic, psychosocial, programmatic, and medical history factors that contribute to low rates are not well understood. Data on rescreening rates for low-income women enrolled in the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program (NBCCEDP) are limited. Because this information is vital to ensuring women in this group return for rescreening as recommended, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has conducted a four-state (Maryland, New York, Ohio, and Texas) study designed to obtain scientifically valid and statistically precise estimates of mammography rescreening rates among NBCCEDP enrollees. This study also was designed to identify factors that influence rescreening behavior, focusing on why women do not return for rescreening in the NBCCEDP even when the examination is at low- or no-cost. Data collection is complete, and data analysis is under way. Results are expected in 2003.

### Case-Control Study of Mammography Efficacy

CDC is working with the University of Pennsylvania on a project that is part of a large, multi-center case-control study of risk factors for breast cancer. This project focuses on women 40–49 years of age and is intended to assess the efficacy of screening mammography for this age group. The study is designed to answer two questions: (1) Does screening mammography protect against diagnosis of breast cancer at an advanced stage among women 40–49 years of age? and (2) Does screening

mammography protect against death from breast cancer among women 40–49 years of age? An initial validation study to compare self-reported mammography history with provider records has been done to help ensure an accurate assessment. Mammography screening histories for patients will be compared with those of women in the control group to estimate the odds ratios for the efficacy of screening mammography, controlling for potentially confounding factors. Published findings from the validation study should be available in 2003. Because long-term follow-up is required, results from the efficacy study will not be available until 2006.

### Formative Research on Issues Related to Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening in Never and Rarely Screened Women

The purpose of this formative research project is to better understand why some Mexican and Mexican-American women living in the United States are never or rarely screened for breast and cervical cancers. The research activities include a review of literature describing barriers to screening and focus groups conducted with Mexican women. This project will examine participants' general knowledge of breast and cervical cancers and screening tests, their attitudes and beliefs about breast and cervical cancer screening, facilitators and barriers to breast and cervical cancer screening, and social influences on women's decisions to screen for breast and cervical cancers. The results of this project will be relevant to the planning and implementation of behavioral intervention research to reach never and rarely screened Mexican and Mexican-American women living in the United States and to increase their

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participation in breast and cervical cancer screening. The literature review, data collection, and data analysis were completed in 2002, and a final report is expected in 2003.

### **Economic Barriers to Preventive Cancer Screening**

This study is using self-reported data from the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System to

examine how income, insurance status, and the perception of cost as a barrier to medical care affect the probability of getting screened for breast and cervical cancers. The findings from the study could be useful in improving the outreach efforts of the NBCCEDP and in helping contribute to the reduction of racial/ethnic disparities in screening practices. The preliminary results will be available in 2003.